

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2015
MEETING MINUTES**

Members present:

Denise Moore, Jean McAleer, Susan Walkup, Jerry Foxhoven, Jake Carmi, Kathy Thompson (representing Gail Barber), Wendy Rickman, David Zimmerman, Anne Gruenwald (phone), Julie Heiderscheit (phone).

Members absent:

Chris Secrist, Edwin Daye, Julie Mann Phillips, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Marti Anderson, Rep. Rob Taylor, Charles Palmer, Gail Barber, George Belitsos, Nancy Magnall, Sen. Dennis Guth.

Visitors present:

Angelica Cardenas-Child and Family Policy Center
Charlie Bruner-Child and Family Policy Center

Approval of Minute:

Minutes for December 5, 2014 meeting stand approved as written.

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Report on Most Recent Reports on Differential Response:

Wendy went through a power point hand out. (See attachment). The purpose of the Differential Response (DR) power point is to let everyone know what DR is about, how it works, what we are currently measuring and to answer any questions and concerns that the department has received on the implementation and our next steps.

The question was brought up about children waiting to get into community mental health units, is there going to be anything done about that? Wendy will check with the mental health work group.



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12-2-14_v6.pptx

Report on Children's Justice Activities:

Kathy Thompson gave an update on the Children's Justice Activities.

The Children's Justice Advisory Committee had a retreat last spring. They decided to form three task forces.

1. Judicial Quality and Excellence task force will address court procedures, quality judicial hearings, best practices, judicial monitoring, and ethics/mentoring.
2. The Family Treatment Court task force will address expansion of family treatment courts, drug testing policy and procedures, implementation of the standards and maintaining continuity across the state.

The legislature expressed an interest in having Family Treatment Courts in every county; however, this is not feasible. The taskforce is identifying the essential elements of family treatment courts and how these elements may be transferred to other areas of the state.

3. The Quality Representation task force will look at how they can help improve the practice of GALs and the parents' attorneys. They will review standards; determine how quality representation can be maintained; discuss opportunities for additional, ongoing training; and develop measures of success and effectiveness.

Children's Justice just received a new 2 year planning grant from OJJDP in the Department of Justice. Five grants were awarded. This grant will focus on developing a plan of expanding family treatment courts and implementing successful strategies in other parts of the state where there is not a family treatment court. Another key part of this grant is engaging medical professionals and other key stakeholders in addressing prenatal substance exposure and the post natal impact of substance use on children. Children's Justice has contracted with Dr. Ira Chasnoff to provide assistance with this part of the grant. A Leadership Institute was convened to develop a strategic plan to address these issues. Toward the end of the 2 year planning process, Children's Justice will have an opportunity to apply for a 3 year grant to implement the strategic plan.

Update on Pending Child Welfare Legislation:

Nothing new at this time.

Legislative Issues by the Child & Family Policy Center:

Charles Bruner is the legislative monitor for a youth group Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP). AMP had the following legislative topics this year:

1. Human trafficking
2. Don't make decisions about us without us.
3. Kids 15 to 17 in foster care in Iowa.

Handouts: Disproportionality by Race/Ethnicity and Age and Restructure the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) Program. (See attachments).

Charles shared that Iowa has a large amount of children in foster care between the ages of 15 to 17, these children can benefit from the PAL program. This program provides dollars for ongoing support to the kids until the age of 17 and the Child and Family Policy Center would like to receive Federal IV-E dollars to extend this program for children to the age of 21, the money would go towards assisting with living expenses while the kids are continuing their education, work training programs or working.



Iowa Children in
Foster Care -- Dispro



PAL legis piece.pdf

Public Comment:

None

Future Meetings Dates:

Our next meeting will be held July 10th from 1:00 to 3:00. In the Clinic Library at the Drake Legal Clinic.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Lori VandeWall

Recording Secretary